

OFFICE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK



# The Forensic Recovery of PHR Following 9/11 at WTC

**July 2007**

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# ***PROPERTY OF OCME, NYC***

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# Background

- Initial finds on rooftop at 130 Liberty St. (Deutsche Bank) in April 2006
- Remains were located on October 18, 2006 in an abandoned Con Edison manhole beneath the Haul Road.
- The next day Mayor Bloomberg asked for recommendations on any other areas that needed to be searched. The Lower Manhattan Construction Command Center (LMCCC) and Department of Design and Construction (DDC) submitted a report on October 27.
  - The Report recommended a plan for a comprehensive search of areas within and in the vicinity of the WTC site.
  - That search is under way. We estimate that it will take years to complete. The current cost estimate is \$32 million.

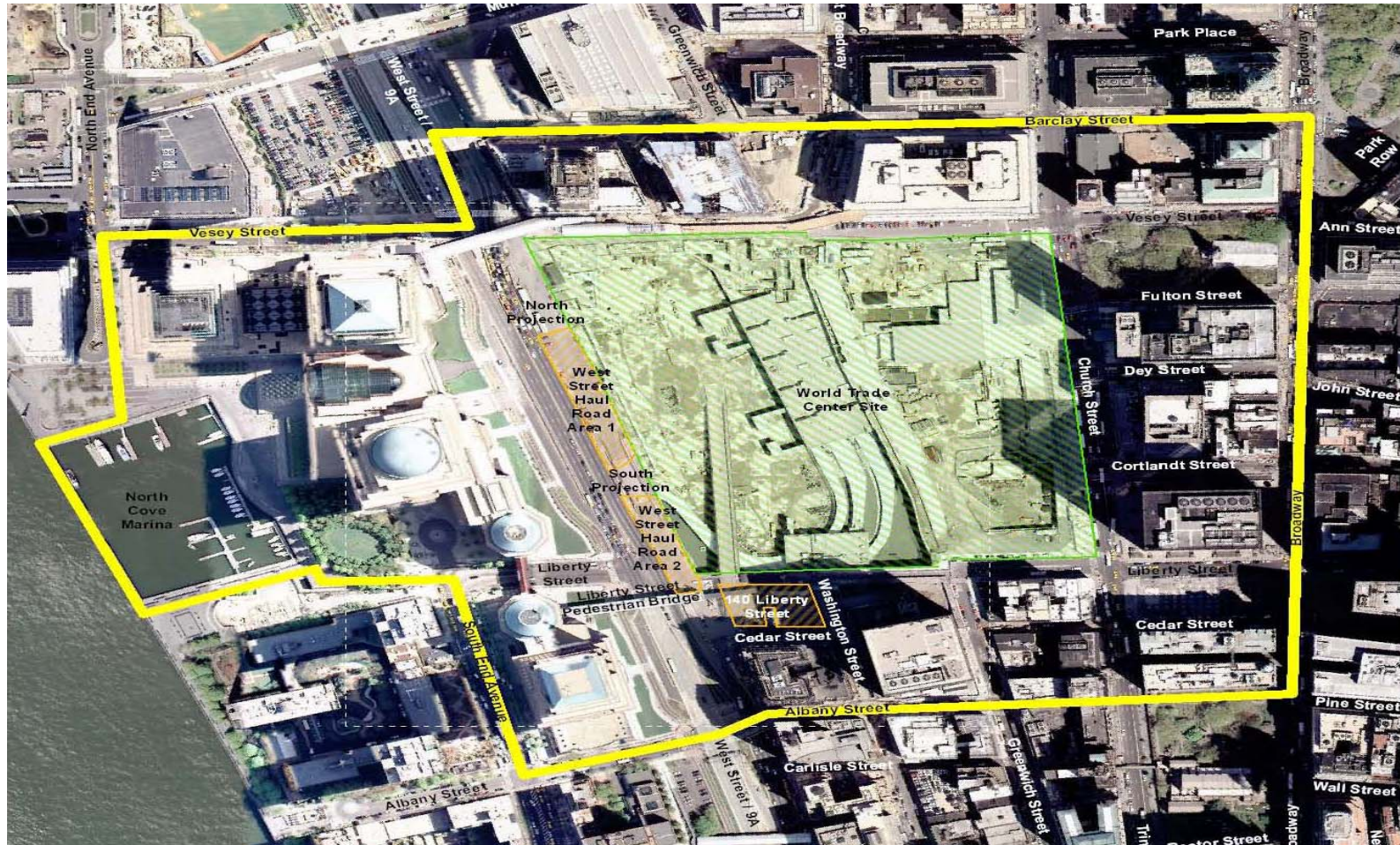


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# Search Area



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# A Three-Part Search Plan

## 1. Searches within the WTC Site

- Subterranean Structures beneath the Haul Road
- Excavation of the Haul Road
- Excavation of the 140 Liberty Street Parcel (site of the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church)
- Excavation of portions of West St.

## 2. Searches of Subterranean Structures in the Vicinity of the WTC Site

- Con Edison, Verizon and the NYC DEP will empty material from over 600 manholes for sifting by OCME

## 3. Searches of Building Interiors and Rooftops

- 130 Liberty Street (Deutsche Bank)
- Fiterman Hall
- 130 Cedar Street
- Rooftop of 55 Church Street (Millennium Hotel)
- Rooftop of 1 Liberty Plaza



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# OCME TEAM



- **Medicolegal Investigators**
- **Forensic Anthropologists**
- **Medical Examiners**
- **Forensic Biology**
- **Contract Employees**



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# Deutsche Bank

- Location: 130 Liberty St
- 40 stories tall
- Built in 1974
- Previously owned by Bankers Trust
- “Deutsche Bank” 1999-04
- 9/11 Insurance Settlement: \$ 140 mil
- Sold to LMDC for \$ 90 mil
- Deconstruction cost estimated at \$220 mil

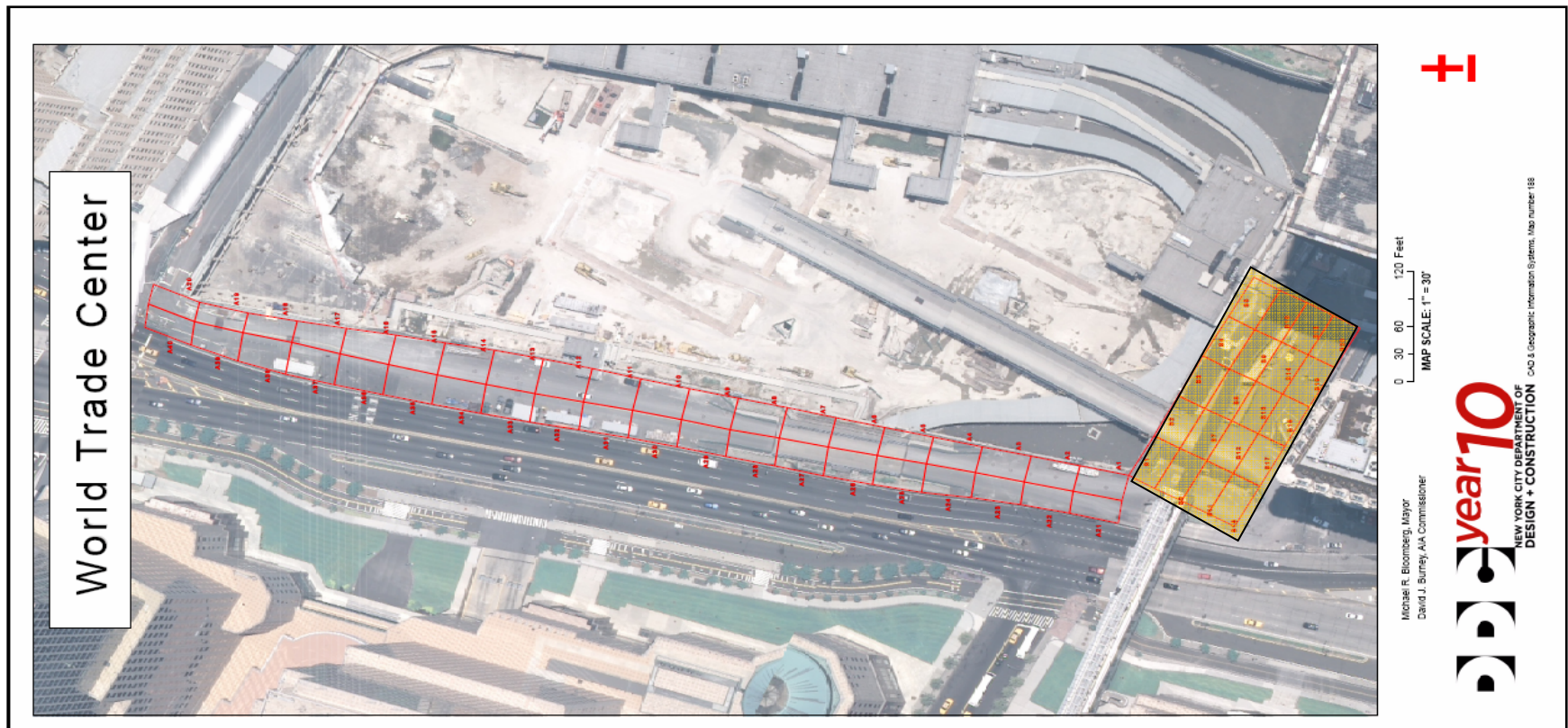


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# Liberty Street Parcel (B-Grids)

- Exploratory Trench
- Excavation (March 1, 2007-Present)





# Sifting Operations at 11 Water Street, Brooklyn

- Material collected from the WTC site and subterranean structures is sifted by hand at 11 Water Street.
- At 11 Water Street, only trained specialists (forensic anthropologists, archeologists, and investigators) sift the material.
- To date, the 11 Water Street facility has sifted approximately cubic yards of material.



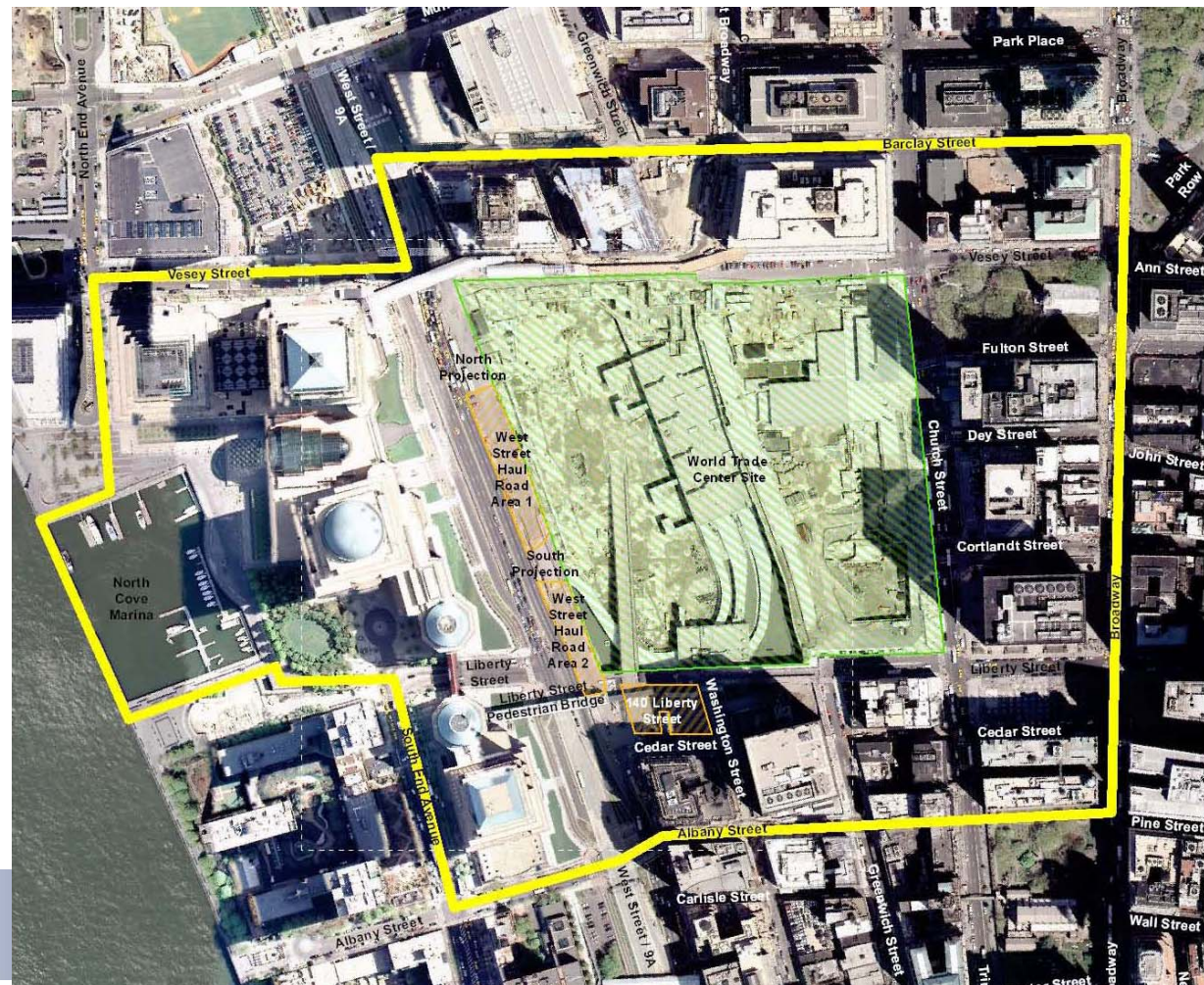
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# Subterranean Structures Search Area

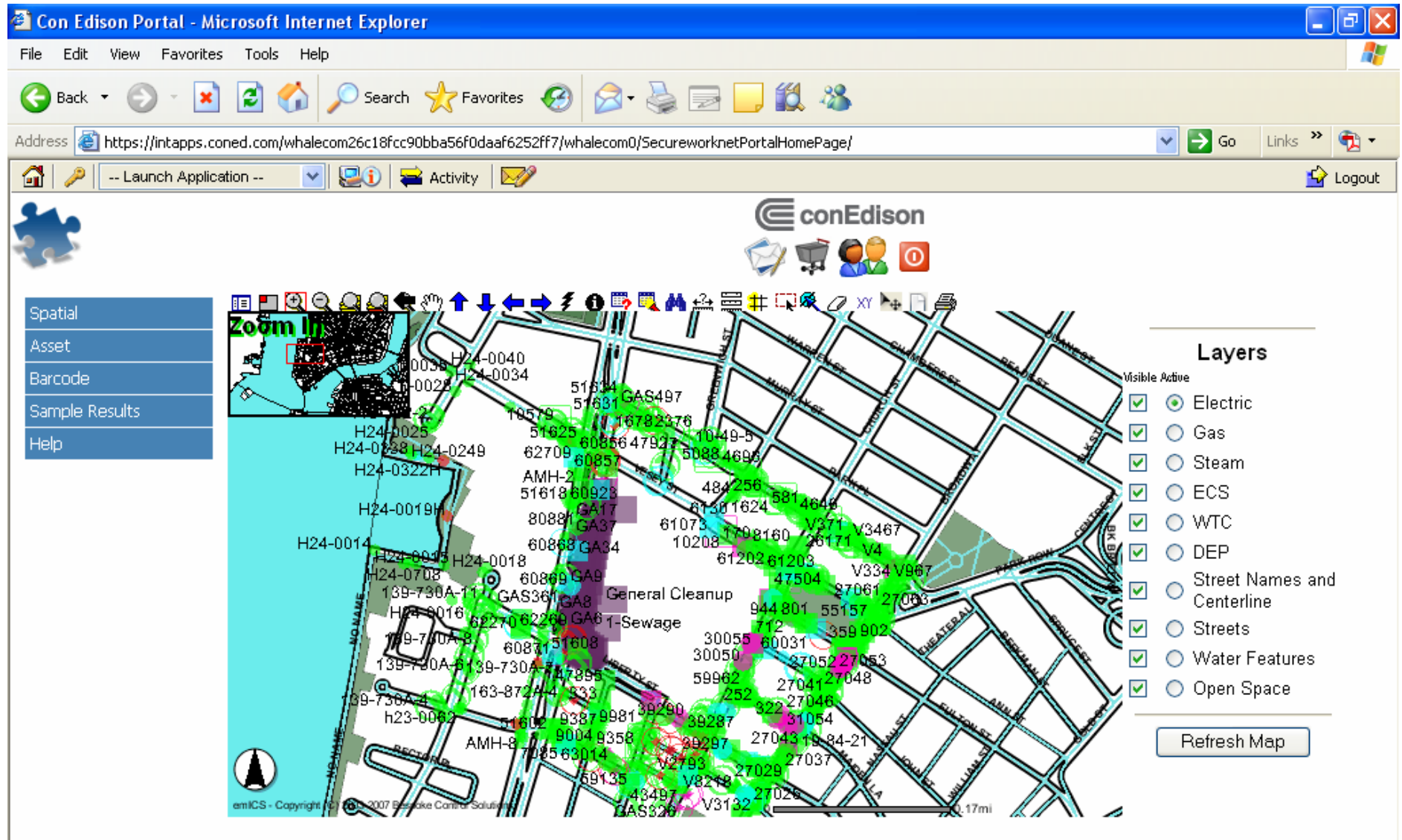


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# CONED Tracking System



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# Hazmat Operation

- Contaminants: WTC Dust?
  - Asbestos
  - Heavy Metals: Mercury, Cadmium
  - Mold spores
- Personal Protective Equipment
  - Hard hat
  - Full face mask w/ PAPR
  - Full Tyvek Suit w. paper undergarment
  - Cooling vest
  - Rubber Boots & gloves
  - Requires full decon of equipment, personnel & PHR
- Heat & Humidity
  - Medical team on site, strict rotation & safety rules



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# Regulators

- EPA
- NYS DEP
- NYC DEP
- NYS DOL
- OSHA
- PESH
- NYCOSH



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# Summary as of July 1st 2007

- Material Excavated to Date: 13,312 cubic yards
- Hand-sifted to Date: 4751 cubic yards
- Total PHR recovered: 1,458



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# **RECOVERY and IDENTIFICATION:**

## **9/11/01 To 7/1/07**

- 21, 421 Human remains recovered
- 10,976 remains identified
- 2750 people reported missing
- 1611 identified
- *The work will continue until all have been found*



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